

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00189 010936Z
ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 EB-08 IGA-02 AGRE-00 /052 W
-----112995 012121Z /64

R 010830Z FEB 78
FM AMECGASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3944
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS CONAKRY 0189

AID/W FOR HARTMAN

DAKAR FOR SCHOONOVER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, GV
SUBJECT: GUINEA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT 675-0201

REF: CONAKRY 0129

1. IN MEETING JANUARY 27, FOUROUMO KOUROUMA OF THE
STATE COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION WITH AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND

FOUMBA KOUROULA, CO-DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECT, EXPRESSED
SATISFACTION WITH SCHOONOVER VISIT, ASKED HOW MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT TOURE HAD GONE, AND RAISED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. CAN SOIL TEST-BORING BE UNDERTAKEN AT PROJECT SITES
IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL OF PROJECT ARCHITECTS? FOUMBA
POINTS OUT GOG HAS RELEASED 300,000 SYLIS FOR THIS WORK,
AND AS PRESENT DRY SEASON IS IDEAL FOR IT, HE WOULD LIKE
TO COMMENCE SOONEST, UNLESS ARCHITECTS REQUIRE THAT HE
AWAIT THEIR ARRIVAL. (RAINY SEASON USUALLY BEGINS IN MAY).

B. WHEN WILL HARTMAN REPLACEMENT ARRIVE? FOUMBA SAID
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HE NEEDS TO DISCUSS AND FINALIZE LISTS OF EQUIPMENT FOR
THE PROJECT. WE TOLD HIM AID/W IS ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR
REPLACEMENT, AND MEANWHILE HARTMAN WILL BE MAKING
PERIODIC VISITS TO CONAKRY AFTER HIS RETURN TO DAKAR
AND COULD DISCUSS EQUIPMENT LIST. THE KOUROUMAS WERE
PLEASED WITH THIS.

C. WILL THE \$4.88 MILLION REQUIRED FOR PROJECT IN FY 78 BE AVAILABLE? WE SAID THIS IS BEING PURSUED IN WASHINGTON BUT EVEN IF FULL SUM IS NOT AVAILABLE, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS CAN BE LET FOR WHOLE PROJECT ON THE BASIS OF THE \$2 MILLION, AS ACTUAL EXPENDITURE OF THE FULL SUM WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL 1979, WHEN THE REST OF THE MONEY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN ANY EVENT. FOUMBA OBSERVED GOG HAS NOT YET RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THE AVAILABILITY \$2 MILLION YET. (OUR IMPRESSION FROM DAKAR 0492 IS THAT \$2.094 MILLION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN MARCH 1978).

2. SIMILAR CONCERNS WERE RAISED IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY LETTER OF JANUARY 5, 1978, WHICH:

A. FORMALLY NAMED FOUMBA KOUROUMA CO-DIRECTOR OF THE PROJECT.

B. ATTACHED A SPECIMEN OF HIS SIGNATURE.

C. ATTACHED A NOTICE FROM THE GUINEAN BANK OF EXTERNAL COMMERCE MAKING AVAILABLE 5,610,000 SYLIS IN COUNTERPART FUNDS UNDER ARTICLE 3, SEC 2 OF THE AGREEMENT.

D. URGED THE NEED FOR PROJECT ARCHITECTS TO BRING FINAL PROJECT PLANS TO GUINEA ASAP SO THEY CAN BE DISCUSSED
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IN LIGHT OF LOCAL CONDITIONS AND SO A VIABLE TIMETABLE FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK CAN BE DISCUSSED.

E. REFERRED TO THE \$4.88 MILLION AND ASKED EMBASSY TO HELP SECURE RELEASE OF THESE FUNDS SO WORK CAN BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT DELAY.

3. COMMENT: PARAS 1 AND 2 UNDERScore GOG CONCERN TO CLEAR AWAY ROADBLOCKS SO PROJECT CAN MOVE FORWARD QUICKLY. IN VIEW POSSIBILITY OF A ONE-YEAR SLIPPAGE UNLESS WE ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY NOW, EMBASSY FULLY ENDORSES GOG POSITION. END COMMENT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. REQUEST RESPONSE TO PARA 1.A ABOVE: CAN TEST BORING BE UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO ARRIVAL ARCHITECTS?

B. REQUEST CONFIRMATION THAT \$2.094 MILLION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN MARCH; WHEN WILL REMAINDER OF \$4.88 MILLION BE AVAILABLE? REQUEST CONFIRMATION THAT CONTRACTING FOR FULL PROJECT CAN GO FORWARD EVEN IF ENTIRE FUNDING

IS NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF CONTRACT SIGNING.

C. PLEASE INDICATE WHEN PROJECT ARCHITECTS WILL COME
TO CONAKRY BRINGING FINAL (OR "PRELIMINARY FINAL"?) PLANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CONAKR00189
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780048-0900
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802108/aaaadnbg.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1e7608ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CONAKRY 129
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3446415
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUINEA AGRICULTURAL PROJECT 675-0201
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, US, GV
To: STATE DAKAR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1e7608ce-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014